

# Steps for Action

## 1. Understand and Value the Black Sea

Encourage schools, museums, and communities to discover the Black Sea's ecosystems, cultural heritage, and importance to local well-being. Awareness grows through hands-on learning, field activities, and storytelling that connect people with their sea.

## 2. Integrate Black Sea Literacy into Education

Translate and adapt BSL materials into regional languages, and embed them in school programs with support from ministries of education. Empower students through project-based learning and initiatives such as the European Blue Schools Network, coordinated by EMSEA within the EU4Ocean Coalition.

## 3. Strengthen Collaboration

Encourage cooperation among educators, scientists, NGOs, and communities through existing Ocean Literacy networks and regional partnerships. Initiatives like the BSL Network and EMSEA offer opportunities to share knowledge and develop joint projects with long-term regional benefits.

# Join the Black Sea Literacy Network

The Black Sea Literacy Network, established through the BRIDGE-BS project and facilitated by EMSEA, connects educators, researchers, and ocean advocates across the region. By becoming an EMSEA Black Sea member, you can contribute to joint activities, share good practices, and help expand Ocean Literacy throughout the Black Sea. Together, we can ensure this shared sea thrives for generations to come.

## 4. Engage Citizens in Action

Encourage public participation in citizen science, coastal cleanups, and community projects. Small actions — reducing waste, choosing sustainable seafood, and raising awareness — can make a real difference.

## 5. Support Policy and Innovation

Align BSL efforts with international frameworks such as the EU4Ocean Coalition and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Strengthen policies, inspire innovation, and connect BSL to sustainable blue economy initiatives.

## 6. Empower the Next Generation

Involve young people as active leaders in marine stewardship. By adopting the "Find the Blue challenge" and joining the Blue Schools Network, Black Sea schools can nurture informed, engaged, and inspired ambassadors for a sustainable future.

## Join EMSEA Black Sea Network

Free membership for educators, researchers, and ocean advocates in the region



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This leaflet was co-created by members of the Black Sea Literacy Network under the BRIDGE-BS project, facilitated by EMSEA.

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# BLACK SEA LITERACY

# Introduction

The Black Sea, a unique marine ecosystem at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, shapes the lives, cultures and economies of millions of people. Its waters connect diverse nations and histories, supporting communities, fisheries, and trade across the region. Yet this unique sea faces growing pressures from pollution, overfishing, and the loss of natural habitats.

To address these challenges, we need to understand how people and the sea are connected. The concept of Black Sea Literacy (BSL) - rooted in Ocean Literacy - promotes knowledge, awareness, and care for this shared environment. It helps citizens, educators, and policymakers see how everyday choices influence the sea's health and resilience. Advancing BSL is central to fostering informed decision-making and responsible stewardship.

The Black Sea Literacy Network, established within the Horizon Europe BRIDGE-BS project and facilitated by EMSEA, unites these efforts. It brings together educators, scientists, and communities to share knowledge, build partnerships, and inspire action. This leaflet introduces the seven principles of Black Sea Literacy, inviting everyone to help protect biodiversity, sustain livelihoods, and celebrate the region's cultural and natural heritage for generations to come.



# The seven essential principles of Black Sea Literacy

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